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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

January 8, 2002

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my interest and support for the settlement of the Microsoft Antitrust case. First and foremost, I am pleased to hear about the recent proposed settlement that was reached in early November of last year. The terms of the settlement were reached after much discussion and are reasonable to all that are involved. Microsoft has agreed to a number of terms that encompass a wide range of issues addressed in the case as well as those aspects of Microsoft's business that were not found unlawful by the Court. Microsoft has agreed to these terms in attempt to end the case so that the company may move forward with the development of new technologies.

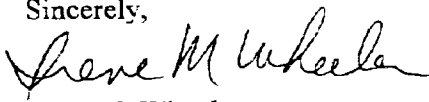
Included in the settlement are a number of requirements that Microsoft has agreed to in order to resolve the infringements on the antitrust laws. Microsoft has agreed to permit computer makers the right to remove consumer access to features of Windows such as Microsoft Internet Explorer web browser, Media Player, and Messenger. These features can be replaced with access to the Microsoft competitive software products. This is demonstrated in the interim release of Windows XP that will make it easy for consumers to change their configuration at any time.

Microsoft has also agreed to terms that ensure Microsoft's adherence to the guidelines in the settlement. A technical committee will be established, and will consist of three experts in software engineering. Any third party who believes Microsoft is not complying with the agreement will be encouraged to file a complaint.

This settlement was reached as a result of much loss to Microsoft as an advancing software company. Without Microsoft, we would be without much of the technologies we have today, and it is important that we finalize this settlement and allow this company to move onto new product development and growth.

cc: Senator Rick Santorum

Sincerely,


Irene M. Wheeler